WHY ARE CURT PRINGLE'S PAW PRINTS ALL OVER *IRVINE WEEKLY*? | THE BEST OF 2018 IN FOOD, FILM, ARTS AND MUSIC
DECEMBER 28, 2018–JANUARY 3, 2019 | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 18
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OCWEEKLY

FREE

A VERY CLOCKWORK ORANGE YEAR

Dispatches from the front lines of Orbit County

Cannabis

MedMen

California

Abbot Kinney
Beverly Hills
DTLA
LAX
[illegible]
West Hollywood
San Diego
Orange County

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1/5	THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BOARD (RAT PACK TRIBUTE)
1/11	TOMMY EMMANUEL WITH JOHN KNOWLES THE HEART SONGS TOUR
1/12	DESPERADO
1/16	BUCKCHERRY
1/17	THE MAGPIE SALUTE (RICK ROBINSON, MARC FORD, SVEN PIPIEN)
1/18	TOMMY CASTRO
1/19	RORRY KRIEGER
1/20	FUHHIEST HOUSEWIVES
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1/25	RIG HEAD TODD & THE MOHSTERS / THE MAIN SQUEEZE
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2/2	THE DAH BAHO
2/7	THE JAMES HUHTER SIX ALBERT CUMMINGS
2/8	JOSHUA RADIH / CARY BROTHERS / LILY KERSHAW
2/9	THE ENGLISH BEAT
2/10	THE SMITHEREEHS WIYH GUEST VOCALIST MARSHALL CRENSHAW
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2/24	THE FOUR FRESHMEH
3/1	TIHSLEY ELLIS / COCO MOHTOYA
3/2	JR RICHAROS OF OISHWALLA
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UPCOMING SHOWS

3/10	THE SPIHHERS	3/31	MORGAN JAMES: FROM WHITE TO BLUE, TWO ICONIC ALBUMS CELEBRATED
3/14	MAKAHA		
3/16	THE FEHIAHS		
3/17	MEAT LOAF PRESENTS BAT	4/9	RUDDY GUY
3/21	ULI JOH ROTH: 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ELECTRIC SUN AND TOKYO TAPES	4/19	AN EVENIHD WITH THE MUSICAL ROX
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ROLLING LOUD 2018

ANICOLEG

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ORANGE FEATHERS »

SO THERE'S THIS GENIUS PROPERTY DEVELOPER WITH YUGE PLANS FOR A BIG BEAUTIFUL TOWN
...WITH HIS NAME ON IT AND EVERYTHING, OK?
BUT THEN THIS OBSTRUCTIONIST LOSER COMES ALONG!
YOU SHOULDA SEEN THIS GUY!
BOO HOO! I CAN'T HEAR!
BOO HOO! I GET NO MONEY!
WAH WAH! I'M GONNA KILL MYSELF!
DONALD TRUMP REVIEWS
It's a Wonderful Life
LUKE MCGARRY

OC WEEKLY

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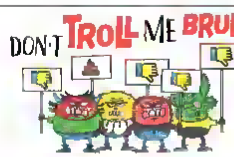

"Are you stoned or stupid? That guy is a perfect example of what is wrong with Orange County. He is a lush, a lech and an all-around feminine hygiene product. It's easy to find locals who have had poor personal experiences with him. Last time I read one of your articles. No journalistic integrity."
—*JD Abbey, in response to "OC Weekly's Man of the Year Is Dennis Rodman Who Else?" on Dec 21*

Our response: You can't read headlines but not stories?

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Fake Newspaper

What are those Curt Pringle paw prints doing all over *Irvine Weekly*?

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A month before the launch of *Irvine Weekly*, Paul Simonds interviewed soon-to-be publisher Brian Calle about fake news and the media at a political-action-committee fundraiser for the South Orange County Economic Coalition in Lake Forest. Calle served as special guest for the "Understanding the Impact of Media on Local Politics" event. The two had been acquainted in conversation two years before. As chairman of the South OC Economic Coalition, Simonds chatted with Calle, who worked as an opinion editor for the *Orange County Register*, at a monthly meeting of the group about the upcoming 2016 elections.

This September, the difference came not just in topics for discussion, but in the roles both men now play.

Simonds became vice president at Curt Pringle & Associates, a powerful lobbying firm headed by the former mayor (and Dark Lord) of Anaheim, after a staff exodus afforded him the opportunity. Calle infamously took the helm of *LA Weekly* with a consortium of shadowy owners, mostly from OC GOP and weed circles, while readying to get in the alt-weekly game with a cheap OC *Weekly* ripoff centered on Irvine.

As reviled as Calle and Pringle both are, it'd be easy to say it comes as no surprise that Pringle paw prints appeared all over *Irvine Weekly* as soon as its second issue. But that's not true, at least on the surface level.

Calle found himself briefly at the center of Anaheim's bitterly contested elections in 2014. As Tom Tait, considered a traitor to the city's resort elite, sought re-election as mayor that year, a Pringle mailer attacked him using Calle's words. Back then, the former *Register* opinion editor interviewed Democratic challenger Lorri Galloway on FOX 11's *You Decide SoCal 2014* and interjected when she invoked the Anaheim Riots during one of her answers. "But wasn't the current mayor an advocate for the people who were rioting and their issues?" he had asked.

Pringleistas smelled blood and slapped the quote on the mailer, painting Tait as a gang-loving, cop-hating, riot-apologist mayor. Calle cried foul. Host Tony McEwing brought up the issue on the program when Calle blasted Pringle for supposedly taking his words out of context for a mailer. "I just found it absolutely despicable," he said. The *Register* followed with criticisms of the former mayor in a sternly worded op-ed and positioned the mailer within Pringle's "shameful smear campaign" against Tait, whom the paper endorsed.

PHOTO BY GABRIEL SAN ROMAN & PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHIE BECKMAN

But Pringle has a way of turning former critics around—just ask Anaheim City Councilwoman Lucille Kring! The most revealing *Irvine Weekly* issue to hit the stands (probably on top of *OC Weekly* racks) came on Oct. 29. With a local election just days away, the editorial board of the alt-beige paper endorsed Pringle pal Don Wagner for Irvine mayor. "For the foreseeable future, many critical issues facing Irvine need Wagner's temperament and experience," the endorsement read.

That may be a very short future, indeed, with Wagner's recently announced but long-speculated-about run for Orange County Board of Supervisors in a special election slated for early next year, a bid sources tell the *Weekly* Pringle will bless with an endorsement over former Anaheim City Councilwoman Kris Murray, who did the Dark Lord's bidding for eight years.

But that's another story, perhaps for another time.

The Wagner nod isn't the only visible sign of Pringle's presence for those who know where to look. Irvine's musical hometown heroes Young the Giant may have graced the cover of that issue, but inside, Calle scored the virginal paper's biggest interview yet with Lakers legend Kobe Bryant about his new children's podcast. The in-person conversation happened at the Children's Hospital of Orange County, which only happens to be a client of Pringle & Associates. Hmm.

More directly, the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) graced the back of the issue with a full-page ad. Lucy Dunn, OCBC's president and CEO, is another Pringle pal who offered his lobbying firm a quote of praise that appears on its website. A week after that *Irvine Weekly* issue published, Calle appeared alongside Pringle himself on a bill of speakers for the OCBC's lighthearted Election Day Luncheon at the Disneyland Hotel. Dunn presided as emcee for the yuk-fest.

The Dark Lord with an alt-weekly at his disposal? It's an idea as absurd as *Irvine Weekly* itself. And yet here we are.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

POLITICAL FOOTBALL
» STEVE LOWERY

Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Houston Texans

Houston update: This is the closest NFL city to the Mexican border where the American republic will apparently die. Karma's a bitch, huh? We came along and stole a good deal of Mexico for ourselves, and now we're imploding over it. As this is written, the government is about to be shut down because the President of the United States' main sales pitch to his supporters was that he would solve a 21st-century problem—folks increasingly moving toward a better life—with a 14th-century solution, a big wall, presumably because his supporters were intimidated by the technological wonder that is a moat. If you remember the hateful twerps who elected this bag of rocks—with 3 million fewer votes—really liked it when he said he would make Mexico pay for the wall. They ate that shit up, chanted it, put it on bumper stickers and signs, announced it to whoever would listen right up until their hero announced by Mexico he meant us and that we were now stuck for the $5 billion bill for his little bit of the Dark Ages. They thought this was a great idea—you know him doing the exact opposite thing he said he would do. They loved it so much that when Congress refused to pay, these beauties contributed to a Go Fund Me effort, raising $13 million for a wall in a couple of days. That may sound impressive until you realize that at that rate, it will take 35 years for them to reach the $5 billion necessary to build the wall. Also, there is a competing Go Fund Me effort to raise money to buy ladders for people to scale the wall. America!

Jacksonville update: A few days ago, someone related to me a horribly comic news story that involved criminal behavior, death, nakedness and drugs, and when they said all the above did not take place in Florida, I not only refused to believe it, but I also became quite angry, having been trained to believe that when anything really fucked up happens, it could only happen in America's penal colony.

Root for: Houston. So, around the same time that the government was to shut down, Trump's lawyer was sentenced to serious prison time, his former chief of staff stood before a judge for his own sentencing, his current defense secretary quit because he just couldn't take it anymore, and his "foundation" shuttered because it was a sham. To be fair, this kind of shit isn't unprecedented in an administration, it happened with Nixon. Thing of it is, with Nixon, it happened during the Watergate *era*, a period of years. What I described happened *last week*.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

Lawsuit on ICE

» MATT COKER

COURTESY OF ICE

The American Civil Liberties Foundation of Southern California and the Immigrants' Rights Clinic at Stanford Law School have filed a class-action lawsuit against the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) "for creating unlawful barriers to attorney-client communications" at Orange County detention centers.

Filed Dec. 14 in U.S. District Court in Riverside, the suit is also directed at private prison company Geo Group Inc., which operates the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in San Bernardino County.

The plaintiffs are individual detainees and two legal nonprofits—the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the Immigrant Defenders Law Center—that provide services to detainees.

One plaintiff, Jason Nsimano, has been detained for more than three years, initially in Adelanto and currently in Theo Lacy Facility in Orange. Nsimano has been kept in protective custody in his cell, where he has no access to a telephone for about 22 hours per day, according to the ACLU, adding that his "scarce" access to telephones usually falls outside business hours, leaving him unable to make legal calls. The phone system also prevents him from calling human-rights organizations, impeding his efforts to obtain critical information relating to his asylum case, the civil-rights group charges.

There are similar issues at James A. Musick Facility in Irvine, according to the ACLU, which accuses ICE, the GEO Group and the OCSD of violating the Immigration and Nationality Act and the First and Fifth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. "The Constitution guarantees immigrants the right to meaningfully communicate with their attorneys," says Jennifer Stark, clinical supervising attorney with the Stanford Immigrants' Rights Clinic, whose students Gracie Chang, Annie Shi and Josh Walden researched and wrote the complaint.

The OCSD denies violating detainee rights, noting in a statement that it is "under contract with federal authorities. . . . We do not deny the ability for detainees to have access to their attorneys or telephones. We follow federal guidelines and the law, while maintaining the safety and security of our jails."

GEO Group reportedly responded to the suit by stating the company does not set phone policies or immigration law, and ICE officials say they do not comment on pending litigation.

The lawsuit asks that the court provide detainees the ability to make private, unmonitored legal phone calls; establish reasonable accommodations for detainees who cannot afford to make calls; and provide sufficient spaces for confidential legal visits. Read the complaint here: www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/2018-12-14_-_doc_001_complaint_for_injunctive_and_declaration_relief.pdf.

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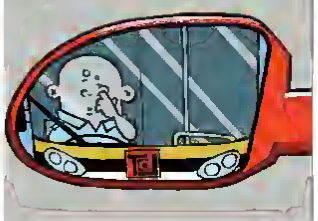
HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Pop Off, Pop On



BOB AUL

You are the Long Beach bus driver who knocked the cover off my side view mirror the other day. A witness managed to write down your bus number and the time of the incident on the back of a receipt from a restaurant, in front of which I had parked. Fortunately, the geniuses at Toyota foresaw the possibility of a side swipe such as yours occurring, so they designed the case to pop off without taking the mirror with it. I popped that sucker back on, and except for a small scrape on the casing, all's well. I could have taken you to the tiles over your reckless driving, but that is a waste of time for a minor scratch. Don't do it again, though!

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

A VERY CLOCKWORK ORANGE YEAR

Dispatches from the front lines of our fair county

By Matt Coker

JAN. 8: A homeless fellow walked into the Smart & Final store in Laguna Niguel, went to the public-address microphone and informed shoppers to make their way to the front exit because of a bomb threat.

Orange County sheriff's deputies say the fellow was not doing his civic duty.

In the confusion of the store clearing out just after 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 4, the fellow grabbed some booze and fled.

A search turned up no explosives in the building at 30252 Crown Valley Parkway. A gander at the Smart & Final surveillance video revealed the identity of a known area transient, according to deputies, who at last word reported the thief was still at large.

JAN. 17: OC *Weekly* cover boy Dennis Rodman could go to prison for up to two years because of a Jan. 13 DUI arrest.

Newport Beach cops popped the NBA Hall of Famer for suspected driving under the influence just after 11:10 p.m., when the 56-year-old was pulled over for allegedly swerving in the 4500 block of West Coast Highway (near Hoag Hospital hill). Police couldn't miss the ride, and not solely because a 6-foot-8, 235-pound "Freak" was behind the wheel. Loud music was reportedly blaring from its speakers.

After an officer made contact, Rodman is claimed to have reeked of booze. He failed a field sobriety test, blew into a Breathalyzer a blood alcohol content percentage that's higher than California's legal limit, and was arrested and jailed through the following morning before being released, according to Newport Beach Police Lieutenant Rachel Johnson.

RODMAN

BOB ALL

Because the Worm is already on three years' probation for causing a July 2016 wrong-way crash on the 5 freeway near Main Street, he will likely have to serve out all or some of the original two-year prison sentence he was facing before the court's probation offer in exchange for a guilty plea, TMZ reports.

If and when Rodman emerges from behind bars (or, as his lawyer Paul Meyer has yet again suggested, like a broken record, that his client should go to rehab), it is time for the city of Newport Beach to seriously consider trading the former NBA rebound leader.

JAN. 31: A Santa Ana man was charged Jan. 30 with arson and attempted murder for a fire that was deliberately set to a tent with a homeless man and woman inside.

James Anthony Lawlor faces felony counts of attempted murder, arson of inhabited property and possession of flammable material, as well as sentencing enhancements for premeditation and arson with an accelerant. If convicted, the 35-year-old could be sent to state prison for seven years to life, according to the Orange County district attorney's office (OCDA).

The homeless pair lived in a tent in a vacant lot in the 1300 block of West Tolliver Avenue that is next to residences and near Lawlor's home. Around 8:20 a.m. on Jan. 19, a man wearing black slacks and a black coat approached the tent with the pair inside and said they had 15 minutes to leave or he would return with his Glock handgun, according to the Santa Ana Police Department.

The male transient poked his head outside the tent to talk to the stranger, who then kicked the victim twice in the head before getting into his newer black truck and driving westbound on Tolliver, police say. But the same man returned to the tent about five minutes later with a red gasoline can, from which he poured gas on the tent, then lit it on fire while the occupants were inside, report police, who add the attacker next got into the truck and drove southbound on Bristol Street.

The homeless pair escaped, although the male had sustained minor burns and injuries from being kicked in the head, according to police.

Investigators from Santa Ana PD and the Orange County Fire Authority launched a probe that uncovered the truck that was possibly used in the crime. It was reportedly still parked in the area.

Police say that led them to Lawlor, who was positively identified by the victim and arrested outside his residence.

Lawlor was questioned at the police station and held on suspicion of attempted murder, arson/property, arson of inhabited structure/property, possession/manufacturing/disposal of material/device for arson, threatening crime with intent to terrorize and assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury.

FEB. 18: Follow the bouncing, um...

Stormy Daniels, the porn star whom President Donald Trump's personal attorney acknowledged paying $130,000 just before Election Day, first shared details of her affair to Nik Richie of the gossip site The Dirty.

Richie, who promptly posted the story about Daniels' fling with the then-star of *The Apprentice* reality show, only to take it down when threatened with a lawsuit, resides in a gated community in Newport Beach.

Daniels is managed by Gina Rodriguez, who also appeared in adult films before becoming a personal manager.

Rodriguez used to manage Nadya "Octomom" Suleman, who back then resided in La Habra but now lives in Orange with her 14 children.

It was with Rodriguez's help that Suleman signed with adult-entertainment company Wicked Pictures.

However, Suleman retired from the porn biz after the release of *Octomom: Home Alone*.

Rodriguez is now working with Daniels on an announcement about how and when she will tell her Trump story publicly.

In the meantime, Daniels has been booked for four "Make America Horny Again" shows in April at the Ultra Gentlemen's Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The same club was known in 2012 as T's Lounge, where Suleman was also booked. She tried to back out and strip at a rival club, which led to a lawsuit and Octomom's eventual performance at T's Lounge in 2013.

Do you know what's near Ultra Gentlemen's Club?

Trump International Golf Club.

Funny how life works, no?

FEB. 28: Things are tough all over when a guy in La Habra rushes at cops while holding an ax with "pigs" written on the handle on the Fourth of July, or when a cop in Fullerton comes up on a fellow in a crosswalk, pushes him from behind, then files a report claiming the dude was resisting arrest.

Welcome to Orange County, Mouseketeers!

A jury on Feb. 22 found Dan James Schuneman guilty of four felony counts of assault on La Habra police officers and three felony counts of resisting an executive officer.

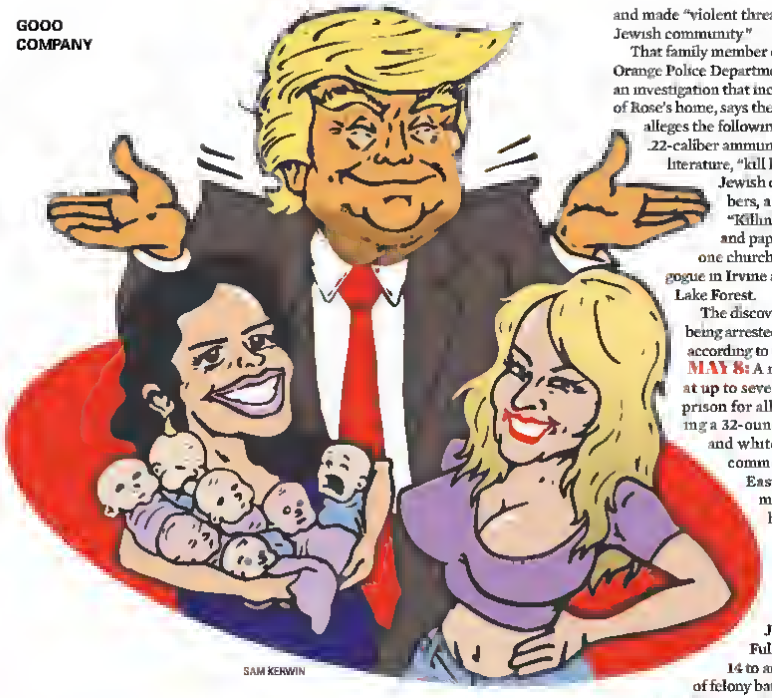
The 48-year-old La Habra resident now faces a maximum sentence of 120 years to life in state prison, according to the OCDA.

Schuneman was extremely upset (you think?) around 8:30 a.m. on July 4, 2017, when he contacted the La Habra Police Department.

As six officers responded to Schuneman's residence for a welfare check, he swung open the door to expose the 3.5-foot-long ax with "pigs" and different phrases inscribed on the handle, according to the OCDA.

Schuneman "walked briskly toward the officers with the ax above his head and the blade facing officers," say prosecutors, who add, "He ignored commands to stop."

Officers fired a less-than-lethal taser and beanbag round at Schuneman "with little effect" before one unidentified cop shot a single round at the suspect with a



SAM KERWIN

handgun, the OCDA says.

That stopped him.

Schuneman was taken to a local hospital to recover from the gunshot wound.

MARCH 21: A Huntington Beach surfboard shaper and son of Surf City royalty pleaded guilty March 20 to trying to get his former sister-in-law knocked off.

Joseph Jordan Taylor, whose father is 2011 Huntington Beach Surfing Walk of Fame inductee John Reid Taylor, copped to felony solicitation to commit murder and attempted murder with a prior strike conviction for criminal threats in 2007. The 32-year-old now faces a sentence of up to 23 years in state prison, according to the OCDA.

Testifying in May 2016 at the Westminster courthouse, Huntington Beach Police Detective Trent Tunstall said that one of Taylor's friends approached authorities in May 2015 to report that his pal had given him $5,000 to arrange the murder of "his brother's ex." Investigators secretly recorded a subsequent conversation the friend had with Taylor, during which a meeting with two "hit men" was arranged, Tunstall testified.

Two undercover Huntington Beach cops posing as potential assassins met with Taylor in a Westminster Mall parking lot soon after. Taylor told the undercovers he wanted his sister-in-law killed at her home after she dropped her kids off at school and that it should look like a robbery gone bad, according to Tunstall, whose detectives also recorded the meeting.

Taylor, who specified the murder should be done before a looming child-custody hearing, agreed to pay $12,000 for the hit, Tunstall said.

The defendant was arrested later that same day, right after he handed the "hit men" a $2,000 cash down payment, Tunstall testified.

Taylor's father, a surf-shop proprietor who was part of the Hole In the Wall Gang surf team that gained prominence in the 1960s and '70s, the defendant's brother Matthew Austin Taylor, and their friend Travis Sprague, of Long Beach, were originally arrested in the case, but charges against them were dropped because of a lack of evidence.

APRIL 20: A 26-year-old Irvine man, who was ratted out by a family member, was charged April 19 with hate crimes for threatening to kill prominent Jews, possessing anti-semitic literature and being loaded for bear—if those bears were Jewish bears.

Nicholas Rose was slapped with three felony counts of attempted criminal threats, three misdemeanor counts of violating civil rights and a sentencing enhancement for three hate crimes. Being convicted of all that could result in a sentence of six years and six months in state prison, according to the OCDA.

An OCDA arraignment statement says that on or about April 16, Rose told a family member "he desired to kill people" and made "violent threats against the Jewish community."

That family member contacted the Orange Police Department, who launched an investigation that included a search of Rose's home, says the OCDA, which alleges the following turned up: .22-caliber ammunition, anti-semitic literature, "kill lists" of prominent Jewish community members, a list of steps titled "Killing My First Jew," and papers referencing one church and one synagogue in Irvine and one church in Lake Forest.

The discovery led to Rose being arrested at the scene, according to the OCDA.

MAY 8: A man is looking at up to seven years in state prison for allegedly hurling a 32-ounce cup of soda and white-supremacist comments at a Middle Eastern smoke-shop manager in Anaheim.

Robert Kevin Pressler, a 54-year-old transient, is expected in the North Justice Center in Fullerton on May 14 to answer to charges of felony battery hate crime causing injury and misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance.

The OCDA provided this account: "On May 2, Pressler is accused of standing outside of a smoke shop in Anaheim and repeatedly yelling a phrase associated with white supremacy at the store manager, who is Middle Eastern. As the manager approached the front entrance of his store, Pressler allegedly walked in that direction and threw a full 32-ounce soda cup."

The cup hit the manager's face, causing a small laceration and the start of an altercation that ended with Pressler calling the Anaheim Police Department.

But the officers who responded arrested Pressler, who was allegedly holding methamphetamine.

JULY 6: A 29-year-old man has pleaded not guilty to throwing a Molotov cocktail at two homeless men at their tent in Anaheim.

Andrew Eric Mongerson of Garden Grove was charged July 3 with felony attempted arson, assault with a deadly weapon and possession of flammable material.

Mongerson made an incendiary device around 1:30 p.m. on June 27, rode his bicycle toward two homeless men along Katella Avenue in Anaheim, lit the so-called Molotov cocktail, threw it at the pair and yelled insults as he rode away, alleges the OCDA. The suspect did not know the victims, one of whom was inside his makeshift tent near a bus stop while the second man stood outside it, prosecutors add.

Glass shattered near the men, and pieces remained on fire until the fuel ran out, states the OCDA, which credits the Anaheim Police Department with investigating the case, identifying Mongerson as the suspect and arresting him in Anaheim.

AUG. 10: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is calling for animal-cruelty counts to be added to the criminal charges against Holy Fire arson suspect Forrest Gordon Clark.

The 51-year-old, who appeared in the courtroom one day after refusing to come out of his cell, is currently charged with one felony count each of aggravated arson damaging at least five inhabited structures, arson of inhabited property, arson of forest and criminal threats, plus two misdemeanor counts of resisting arrest.

A conviction could send him to state prison for life, but PETA Vice President Colleen O'Brien nonetheless is calling for more charges against Clark. "Millions of wild animals—from deer, raccoons, foxes and bears to coyotes, frogs, birds and insects—are losing their homes and their lives in shockingly painful ways, as they're unable to escape from this inferno," O'Brien says in a statement from her Norfolk, Virginia-based activist group. "PETA is calling for cruelty-to-animals charges to be added to those pending against the man now in custody and accused of starting the fire."

Deciding that would fall to the OCDA, whose spokeswoman Michelle Van Der Linden is not ruling out the possibility. "This remains an open and very active investigation, with information continuing to come in," she said. "All of the reports will be thoroughly reviewed, and additional charges may be added based on the evidence."

SEPT. 18: Remember the story from 2017 about the music teacher accused of possibly giving semen-filled flutes to students in Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Newport-Mesa and Capistrano Unified school districts, as well as elsewhere in Southern California?

It was an apparent crime so heinous that the *Weekly* had dual reports Oct. 2, 2017, on our news and music blogs, and the then-unidentified suspect made our pre-Halloween list of Orange County's 31 Scariest People.

Federal authorities since released the name of John Edward Zeretzke.

However, without mentioning the flute incidents, the U.S. Department of Justice has revealed that the 60-year-old Ventura resident was arrested Sept. 13 for allegedly coercing a young girl to produce child pornography, attempting to entice another victim to send him sexually explicit images, traveling to the Philippines with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct with children, and receiving child pornography over the internet. Twice!

The Philippines is key because part of Zeretzke's Flutes Across the World pro-

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

FLUTES ACROSS THE WORLD IMAGE

A VERY CLOCKWORK ORANGE YEAR

» FROM PAGE 8

gram involved having each of his Southern California students make two homemade flutes, one they would keep for themselves and the other they would donate to students in the island nation.

Parents of those same students in Orange and Los Angeles counties received letters from their children's schools last year warning that Zeretzke may have inserted man juice into their flutes.

For instance, the Capo Unified letter stated, "As part of this [Flutes Across the World] program, students may have received a flute made of PVC plastic piping and a single wine cork that they could decorate. Today, we further consulted with law enforcement and were advised that these flutes may have been inappropriately contaminated with the suspect's bodily fluid. In an abundance of caution, we are asking all families who may have had children participate in this type of program either at school or within the community to remove these flutes from your child's possession and place them in a sealed paper bag."

It is unclear if Zeretzke still faces charges for the SoCal flute fouling. However, if convicted, he could get up to 15 years in the federal pen.

SEPT. 24: A Fullertoo man is due in court for an alleged hate crime against a pregnant African American woman that happened barely a year after the same defendant pulled a hate-crime assault on a victim who is Filipino and Turkish.

Tysoo Theodore Mayfield pleaded not guilty at his arraignment to felony criminal threats and violating civil rights, misdemeanor petty theft, and a sentencing enhancement for a hate crime with a prior conviction.

The 42-year-old, who wbeo he was last convicted was described as having a swastika tattoo on his right shoulder, is accused of insulting the black woman with racial slurs and threatening her after she got off a bus at the Fullerton station on Sept. 17, according to authorities.

The unideotified victim pepper sprayed Mayfield in self defense, and he grabbed her backpack and fled, alleges the OCDA.

After the woman called police, Fullerton officers were unable to locate Mayfield. But a few hours later, be approached the same woman, who had ducked into a nearby café for safety, says the OCDA, which ootes police were called again and Mayfield was arrested this time.

He is used to brushes with police, having been arrested July 13 on suspicion of defecating in public 10 days before. That case has oot beeo resolved, according to court records.

On Sept. 4, 2017, which was Labor Day, Mayfield approached the Filipino/Turkish man he did oot know and asked to borrow a lighter. After the stranger informed him be had no flame, Mayfield became "agitated," called the victim an unspecified racial slur and punched him multiple times, the OCDA said at the time. Fullerton cops got that call as well, and Mayfield was arrested.

Mayfield went oo to cop to misdemeanor counts of violating a victim's civil rights and causing a violent injury. Orange County Superior Court Judge Kazuharu Makino sentenced Mayfield on Oct. 20, 2017, to a year in jail. However, he was released from custody for time served.

He has pleaded guilty other times as well. In June 2008, Mayfield copped to a felony count of mayhem and was sentenced to four years in prison. He also pleaded guilty to a felony count of assault with a deadly weapoo in February 2005, earning a two-year prison stretch.

Maybe that's where he'd rather be?

NOV. 16: In these times of mass shootings, mysterious explosions and bombs being sent to public officials, this is sobering. A man was arrested at his Tustin area condo oo Nov. 14 for possessing fireworks, explosive devices and "a large amount" of bomb-making materials, authorities say.

Kevin Sean Welch, 38, was held in Orange County Jail on $1 million bail after being booked and charged with felony

private residence, possession of materials with intent to explode, misdemeanor possession of fireworks without a permit and misdemeanor sale of illegal fireworks.

Deputies were called to a condominium at 12720 Newport Ave. in unincorporated Tustin just before 9 a.m. Wednesday when a neighbor heard a loud explosion and a piece of shrapnel landed in his back yard, according to Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) Public Information Manager Carrie Braun.

Responding deputies went to an adjoining condominium, made contact with Welch and noticed pieces of a terra-cotta chiminea—an outdoor fireplace—in his back yard, Braun says. "Welch initially admitted to an accidental explosion resulting from an aerated can placed in the burning chiminea," reads Braun's release, which notes no one else was at the residence at the time and no one was injured in the explosion.

During their investigation, deputies saw what appeared to be fireworks and explosive devices in plain sight, according to Braun, who adds the OCSD Hazardous Devices Squad was called, the condo and four adjoining units were evacuated, surrounding residents were requested to shelter-in-place, and Newport Avenue was closed from Wass Street to Warren Avenue.

Once a search warrant was obtained, the bomb unit went to work and "identified a completed pipe bomb, additional partially completed pipe bombs, illegal fireworks and a large amount of precursor materials used to make explosive devices," the spokeswoman says.

The Orange County Fire Authority Hazmat Team, the California Highway Patrol, the Orange County Crime Lab and the Tustin Police Department assisted during the incident, Braun notes.

Besides being arrested for what was seized at his condo, Welch "may be connected to at least two explosions in the Tustin area in the past few weeks," according to Braun, whose department

DEC. 7: When it rains, it pours in Fullerton: First, it was charges for the former mayor's wife, and then it was charges for the former police chief and a captain.

David James Hendricks, the now-ex Fullerton police chief, and Captain Thomas William Oliveras Jr. were charged for their off-duty roles in the battery on emergency medical technicians (EMTs) at an August concert in Irvine.

Hendricks, who resigned as chief on Nov. 2 amid the scandal, faces two misdemeanor counts of battery on an EMT and resisting and obstructing a police officer, which could lead to the 47-year-old getting three years in county jail if convicted.

Oliveras also faces misdemeanor resisting and obstructing an officer, but only a single count of battery on an EMT. If convicted, the 50-year-old could get two years in the county slammer.

Their arraignments are scheduled for Jan. 9 at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach, according to the OCDA.

As Liam Blume reported for the *Weekly*, Hendricks and Oliveras were allegedly drinking heavily while watching an Aug. 24 Lady Antebellum concert with their spouses at the FivePoint Amphitheatre in Irvine.

Two Symons Ambulance EMTs, who had responded to a report that Hendricks' wife had suffered some kind of injury, arrived to a fight scene, and while tending to the woman, Hendricks and Oliveras allegedly assaulted them physically. "Hendricks is accused of pushing two EMTs as they attempted to provide treatment, and Oliveras is accused of putting one victim in a headlock," the OCDA said. "The Irvine Police Department responded to the scene, and the defendants are accused of obstructing and delaying the investigation."

The incident led to Hendricks and Oliveras being placed on paid administrative leave during the Irvine Police criminal investigation.

Hendricks had only been chief for seven months when the melee happened.

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FULLERTON PD

HENDRICKS (LEFT) AND OLIVERAS

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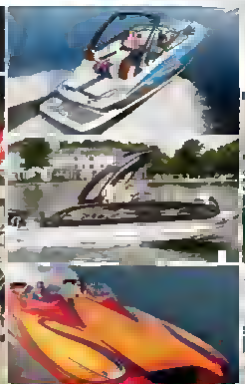


*calendar

COURTESY OF DISNEY ONICE

fri/12/28

[FILM]

Pre-Fall Freefall

Wings of Desire

Wim Wenders' 1987 *Wings of Desire* is possibly the most mystical call for participatory democracy since Walt Whitman, a documentary-style, allegorical love-of-life story in which impossibly poetic dialogue (by avant-garde novelist Peter Handke) is spoken by wistful mortals and heard by jealous angels who witness human longing. (One angel even meets ex-angel actor Peter "Columbo" Falk, of all people.) Set in Berlin before its iconic wall was torn down, this dreamy, mostly black-and-white film uses the divided city, a traveling circus and punk atmospherics to introduce the plight of one unhappy human caught mid-heaven, a beautiful trapeze artist for whom handsome lead angel-hero Bruno Ganz will of course fall.

Wings of Desire at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. 2:30, 5 & 8 p.m., also Sat.-Sun. $7-$10. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

[TOURS]

PASSING SHIPS
Lady Washington

Adventure Sails

Come aboard the *Lady Washington*, a replica of the original *Lady Washington* tall ship that sailed throughout the Pacific Ocean and helped open up trade between North America and parts of the Pacific Rim. This brig was built in 1989 by Grays Harbor Historical Seaport and has been used in movies such as *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* and *Star Trek: Generations*. It makes a visit to the Ocean Institute this month so that families and groups can learn about what sailing was like centuries ago thanks to tours and educational experiences. Join in on this fun and fascinating history lesson on the water.

Lady Washington Adventure Sails at Ocean Institute, 24200 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point, (949) 496-2274, www.ocean-institute.org. 4 p.m. Through Jan. 13, 2019. $50-$60. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/12/29

[CONCERT]

EXTENDED HOLIDAY

John Legend

Maybe Santa Claus didn't deliver the right gifts under the tree. Or sadly, the most wonderful time of the year is all wrapped up until next time. Whatever the cause of your post-holiday blues, John Legend is here to help. The musician keeps the season singing with his tour in support of *A Legendary Christmas*, stopping tonight in Costa Mesa. In October, Legend released his first Christmas album, featuring a number of original songs and classic covers. Produced by Raphael Saadiq, the album passes on forgettable, overproduced jingles in favor of soulful and bluesy sounds that are perfect to keep the holiday spirit around just a little longer.

John Legend at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787, www.scfta.org. 7:30 p.m. $85. —GARRIEL SAN ROMÁN

[SPORTS & RECREATION]

New Year's Bash!

Crash Into the New Year

Roll into the New Year with the badass derby gals of Huntington Beach—and when we say "with," we mean exactly that, so grab your knee and elbow pads because anyone 18 and older who passes the minimum skills test is invited to scrimmage with the ladies at their Ninth Annual Crash Into the New Year bash. Spectators are also welcome, of course, so whether you're into a little body slamming to start off your midnight partying, or you just want to see amateurs get tossed across the rink, this is your perfect pre-NYE game plan. If you're skating, don't forget to bring black-and-white shirts with your number on the back and be prepared to see a slew of 69s go down in flames.

Crash Into the New Year at the Rinks, 5555 McFadden Ave., Huntington Beach, www.ocrollerderby.com. 9:30 a.m. Spectators, $5; participants, $15-$20. —SR DAVIES

sun/12/30

[HEALTH & FITNESS]

To Your Health!

Yoga & Beer

When you think about it, pairing beer-drinking with some meditative guided stretching is the right way to go. Not only does imbibing loosen you up, but it also puts you in a relaxed state of mind conducive to bending in Downward Dog. The good folks at Spirited MVMNT offer a special yoga class held at Left Coast Brewing today, designed to help participants unwind, have fun and socialize, while also learning yoga moves in a comfortable space. Plus, beer! One free alcoholic beverage is included with the cost of entry, allowing you to treat your mind, body and soul for an hour. We'll drink to that!

Yoga & Beer at Left Coast Brewing Co. Tasting Room, 1251 Puerto Del Sol, San Clemente, (949) 276-2699, strvtmvmnt.co. 11 a.m. $50. 21+.

—AIMEE MURILLO

[CONCERT]

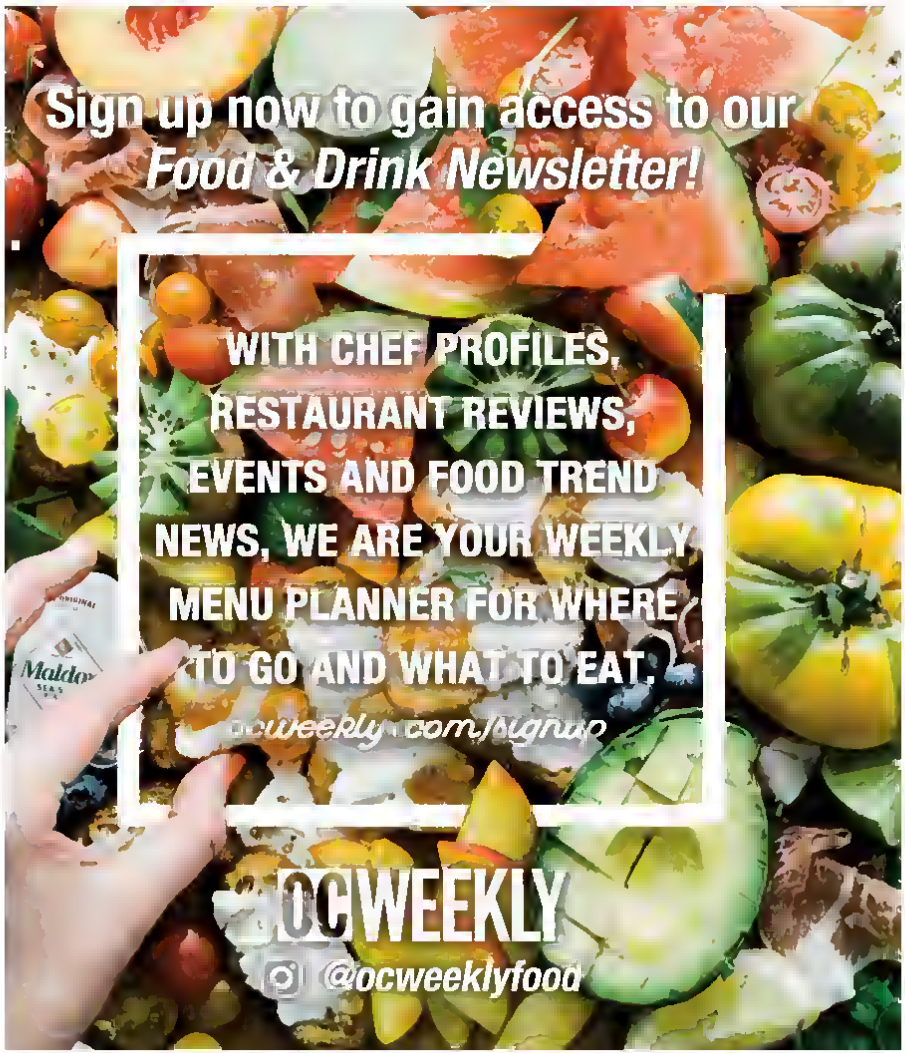
Got That Swing

James Intveld & Swing Sinners Pre-NYE Party

If you're in the mood for a pre-NYE celebration, this New Year's Eve Eve party will provide the best outlet for some frisky jumpin' and jivin'. Music icon James Intveld—best known for performing his own brand of cow punk, Americana and rockabilly—will be backed by the Swing Sinners as he brings you both original songs and covers of swing and jazz classics. Campus JAX will also provide some yummy Cajun and Creole cuisine—and kids are welcome, too. Supporting acts include Johnny and Jaalene and Kid Ramos, so spit shine those dancing shoes and get ready to cut a rug!

James Intveld & Swing Sinners Pre-NYE Party at Campus JAX, 3950 Campus Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 261-6270; www.stellarshows.net. 7:30 p.m. $15–$240.

—AIMEE MURILLO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mon/12/31

[CONCERT]

The E Is for Exotica

NYE Jungle Jetsetters

OC's own Tikiyaki Orchestra hosts an extravagant evening to ring in the new year. Board the NYE Jungle Jetsetters express at Campus JAX for a pleasant ride, during which you'll be charmed by the slack-key guitar playing of Kimo, burlesque interludes and, of course, Tikiyaki Orchestra. We advise you to augment your experience with a mai tai, a Jungle Jetsetter or any other tiki drink. It will make your trip to *Palekaiko* (paradise) ever so smooth!

NYE Jungle Jetsetters with Tikiyaki Orchestra at Campus JAX, 3950 Campus Dr., Newport Beach, (714) 809-6146, www.stellarshows.net. 8:30 p.m. $55–$450. 18+.

—SCOTT FEINBLATT

tue/01/01

[FOOD & DRINK]

Feel Refreshed

New Year's Day Detox/or Retox

New year, new you—although that "new you" is probably still recovering from last night's hangover. You need the help of Pasea Hotel's Aarna Spa, where you can kick-start 2019 with guided meditation and some B-12 shots. Visit an oxygen bar and a delicious juice bar. Later, when you're feeling refreshed and ready for more boozing, the hotel offers a special Retox brunch, with a chilaquiles station, an amazing buffet meal that includes avocado toast, and mimosa and Bloody Mary bars. A healthy, new version of yourself is just around the corner.

New Year's Day Detox/or Retox at Pasea Hotel and Spa, 21080 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (855) 636-6371, meritagecollection.com/pasea-hotel. Detox, 10 a.m., Retox, 11 a.m. Retox tickets $65, detox features sold separately.

—AIMEE MURILLO

wed/01/02

[COMEDY]

Making 'Em Laugh

Bear City Comedy

This ain't no open mic. Bear City Comedy regularly gathers some of the most hilarious minds at Long Beach's Que Sera, a space that fulfills its obligation to shelter its inhabitants from the outside world with dark interiors and cheap drink prices. There's nothing cheaper than free, however, and that's the price of admission to see some up-and-coming as well as established comedians and comedy writers (some of whom have made it to the big time, writing for *Conan* or *The Tonight Show* or have appeared on the comedy circuit). Hosted by funnymen Stephen Furey and Trevor Hill, tonight's lineup includes Allison Weber, Brendan Cooney, Jessica Sele, Jil Chrissie, Yusuf Ali and others. Oh, and there's free pizza, too!

MORE ONLINE OCWEEKLY.COM

Bear City Comedy at Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, bearcity.eventbrite.com. 7 p.m. Free. 21+

—AIMEE MURILLO

[TRIVIA]

THEATER GEEKS WELCOME

SCR Musical Mashup Trivia Night

South Coast Repertory has a high-profile musical on deck—the classic *Sweeney Todd*—and this trivia event is a chance to submerge yourself in the minutiae of the art form itself. Academy Awards, composers and the specificities of the Von Trapp family's actual membership are some of the teasers SCR floated in its press materials, but surely that's the easy stuff. Yes, yes. "No need to be an expert!" it promises. But if you are an expert—somebody fluent in the grandiose pre-war forms, or the anti-Nazi musicals that don't involve the Von Trapps, or perhaps immersed in the post-hippie Hollywood glam-a-delic outing *Phantom of the Paradise*—please, seize the opportunity to smile modestly and triumph with grace, of course.

SCR Musical Mashup Trivia Night at Chapter One, the modern local, 227 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 352-2225, www.scr.org. 7 p.m. Free. 21+

—CHRIS ZIEGLER

thu/01/03

[THEATER]

YOU WILL BE FOUND

Dear Evan Hansen

Easily one of the most hyped Broadway theater productions since *Hamilton*—and with good reason—*Dear Evan Hansen* tells the tale of a young man who has few friends, yet he involves himself in a suicide and uses it to his own benefit. Of course, shenanigans ensue and lessons are learned. The show, which has won six Tonys, is a deeply personal look at adolescence and growing up in the 21st century. The widely popular show sticks around through Jan. 13, 2019, to kick off what's sure to be a rockin' year.

Dear Evan Hansen at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787, www.scfta.org. 7:30 p.m. $35-75.

—WYOMING REYNOLDS

[PERFORMING ARTS]

A Disnerd's Dream

Disney On Ice: *Dare to Dream*

Though we're lucky enough to live in the land of Disney, the parks are so crowded each day that some of the magic has definitely worn off. So if you still love Disney (and we do!) but are over the excessive congestion, this sounds pretty sweet. Disney On Ice returns to Long Beach with *Dare to Dream*, in which all your favorite characters—including Moana, the *Frozen* sisters, Belle, Cinderella and, of course, Mickey—skate around in a beautifully choreographed display of lights and music. Plus, tickets to Disney On Ice are about *one-fifth* the cost of a one-day, one-park Disneyland ticket. Dare to dream? Yeah, that Disneyland will ever be accessible again—especially after Star Wars Land opens.

Disney On Ice: *Dare to Dream* at Long Beach Arena at Long Beach Convention Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 436-3661, www.disneyonice.com. 7 p.m. Through Jan. 6, 2019. $16-$175

—ERIN DEWITT

Events at Newport Dunes

A Thousand Horses, Lit, Redneck Rodeo, Temecula Road

Heatbeat City
Tribute to The Cars
Friday, December 28th

Dead Man's Party
At Back Bay Bistro
Saturday, December 29th

Reggae on the Beach
Ft. Don Corlos
w/ Special Guests
At Bayview Tent Pavilion
Saturday, December 29th

Journey Captured
Tribute to Journey
Back Bay Bistro
Saturday, January 5th

Atomic Punks
Tribute to Van Halen
w/ Matley Inc.
Bayview Pavilion
Saturday, January 12th

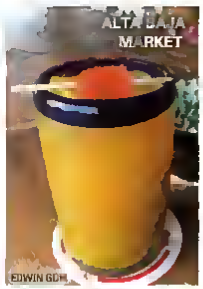
949-729-3863
NewportDunes.com
Tickets available at TicketWeb.com

NEWPORT DUNES
WATERFRONT RESORT & MARINA

Satisfy Your Cravings

Our beloved food critic's picks for the top five restaurants and drinks of 2018

BY EDWIN GOEI



EDWIN GOEI

MERCEDES DEL REAL

EDWIN GOEI

DRINKS

5 FREE FATHER'S DAY BEER AT CAFE HIRO

This past year, Cafe Hiro offered a free mug of beer to all the fathers in the house on Father's Day. It didn't matter if you were or weren't *actually* a father; you just had to say "yes" if you were offered one by the wait-staff. And if you didn't have any offspring, all you had to do was to think of ways you may have been a father figure to a pet or that clueless intern at work. *10509 Valley View St., Cypress, (714) 527-6090, cafehiro.com.*

4 IRISH STOUT AT GOLDEN ROAD BREWING

One of the best things you can eat at Golden Road Brewing is the olive oil chocolate cake, which also happens to be vegan. It goes extraordinarily well with ice cream and a frothy pint of the house Irish Stout, which your friendly waiter will tell you you'll like if you like Guinness. He's right. *210 E. Orangewood Ave., Anaheim, (714) 912-4015, goldenroad.la*

3 $1 CHAMPAGNE AT RAW BAR BY SLAPFISH

The best time to go to Raw Bar by Slapfish this past year was during the "Beat the Clock" special, when, starting at 3 p.m., every oyster was sold for a buck apiece. The champagne was also $1 per flute. The prices for both then went up 50 cents every subsequent half-hour. Now, the deal has changed: Only "select" oysters are $4 for four, starting at 4 p.m. Also the beer, wine and champagne aren't a buck anymore; each is now $5 apiece for the entire Happy Hour period. But it's probably just as well. $1 for beer and champagne was way too good of a deal to last. *19694 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, (714) 963-3900, www.slapfishrawbar.com.*

2 COCONUT RUM AT HABANA

Let's admit it: Any drink served in a coconut is automatically great. But when that coconut is actually fresh, cracked open at your command, with rum poured in to mix with the coconut water inside? That's the stuff of dreams. *708 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 419-0100, www.restauranthabana.com.*

1 PASSION FRUIT MICHELADA AT ALTA BAJA MARKET

If you've never had one of Alta Baja Market's micheladas, owner Delilah Snell will say they're akin to Bloody Marys, but made with beer. The passion-fruit michelada, though, is closer to a mimosa without the harshness of champagne or tartness of O.J. But unlike that brunch-time excuse to imbibe, this drink is light, refreshing and invigorating instead of intoxicating. And with every gulp, you relive those tropical drinks of Hawaiian vacations past. *201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 783-2252, www.altabajamarket.com.*

RESTAURANTS

5 HIGO CHICKEN

Located next to a seedy liquor store and a windowless dive bar, Higo Chicken is a small restaurant space where Luis Uechi, a Japanese-Peruvian, displays his unabashed Peruvian side. The menu is a laser-focused one-pager of the country's standards. For a main course, you can have your choice of arroz chaufa, saltado, tallarin saltado, aji de gallina or pollo a la brasa. Though the list is small, everything is great, proving that the best Peruvian restaurants don't have to have a good location or an extensive menu, just a ripping-hot wok and a chef who knows how to use it. *722 E. Whittier Blvd., La Habra, (562) 524-2026, www.higochicken.com.*

4. MALIBU FARM

On the Malibu Farm menu, there's arugula in almost everything. The steak comes with a side of arugula dressed as a salad. The chicken Parm wears a nest of arugula as a hat. And the chocolate cake—yes, even the chocolate cake—has an arugula leaf stuck in the whipped cream. But that herb-marinated hanger steak is more flavorful than what you'd find at any Texas steakhouse. The twice-baked potato it comes with is an improvement over a single-baked one. *3420 Via Oporto, Newport Beach, (949) 791-2096, malibu-farm.com.*

3 HEIRLOOM FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

Despite its name—since Heirloom Farmhouse Kitchen is actually the restaurant inside the Marriott Irvine Spectrum—you'd think it's playing it safe when you see a menu full of recent restaurant tropes of charred Brussels sprouts, roasted beets, even a mac and cheese. But what you discover is that the kitchen manages to upgrade these dishes to be the best versions of themselves. *7905 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 759-0200*

2 DAVIO'S

The steaks here are crusted by a flavorful char, cooked flawlessly, every chew of the sanguine flesh absent of the gristle and impurities of a lesser cut of meat. And the fries are practically French steak frites. Every meal starts with a free basket of pop-overs instead of bread, and there's a panna cotta for dessert, which is always preferable over a crème brûlée. *18420 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 100, Irvine, (949) 477-4810, davios.com.*

1 CHAAK

Gabbi Patrick's newest restaurant features the unalloyed regional cuisine of the Yucatan Peninsula, the place of Patrick's birth. At Chaak, she serves no rice-and-beans combo plates. Instead, she offers sikil pek, a traditional Yucatecan dip made from ground pumpkin seeds. There are panuchos and salbutes and a boneless grilled fish that you scoop out and wrap inside thick-as-a-mousepad corn tortillas. *15 El Camino Real, Tustin, (657) 699-3019, chaakkitchen.com.*

WHAT THE COCKTAIL

» GREG NAGEL

Good Libations

5. HOTEL CALIFORNIA AT A&O KITCHEN + BAR

With a name like Hotel California, this drink could either be heaven or it could be hell, but as soon as I saw the rosy hue of Jardesca Red Aperitivo floating on top, I forgave the Eagles reference. If you're an amaro fan like me, this is your drink. It's balanced with two types of rum and a nice hit from St. George's Bruto Americano. *1221 West Coast Hwy., Newport Beach, (949) 630-4215, www.balboabayresort.com.*

4. CEVICHE ACAPULCO AT PUESTO

Plump shrimp ceviche, all snug and limey, sit in a hollowed bell pepper crowning a Tajin-dusted Modelo. It sounds simple, but this isn't your average chomp and chase. Inspired by Acapulco resort snacks, this is the next best thing to a Bloody Mary. *3311 Michelson Dr., Irvine, (949) 608-7272; also at 8577 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 608-9990; eatpuesto.com.*

3. GIN TONIC AT VACA

Spanish-style gin-and-tonics have been all the rage in 2018, yet Vaca serves several inspired varieties that call my name like botanical crack. *695 Town Center Dr., Ste. 170, Costa Mesa, (714) 463-6060; www.vacarestaurant.com.*

2. WHERE THE HECK IS SCANDINAVIA AT THE BLINKING OWL DISTILLERY

Where the Heck is Scandinavia blends in a thick layer of Blinking Owl Aquavit, a drink that I imagine tastes like a side salad at René Redzepi's Noma: bright, citrusy, Scandinavian, with a lick of that refreshing cucumber water you get at a high-end spa. *Skål! 802 E. Washington Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 852-3947; blinkingowldistillery.com.*

1. DEAR DANIEL AT THE BOW ROOM AT HELLO KITTY GRAND CAFE

Is it possible to get catscratch fever from a cocktail? This smoky drink starts with the super-satisfying salted coconut foam at the top of the Rayu Mezcal and El Jimador drink that gets its hue from super-food spirulina, pineapple and lime. Dear Daniel? This is more like DAMN, Daniel. *670 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 536-5357, www.sanrio.com/pages/hellokittycafe*

GREG NAGEL

ANDY REED

An Under-the-Radar Culinary Scene

Our top five Long Beach restaurants of 2018

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» ERIN DEWITT

JOHNNY REBS'

Of all the southern-fried chicken spots in Long Beach, our heart belongs to Johnny Rebs' original outpost. Johnny Rebs' has served up true southern hospitality since 1984—long before that idea became an overused restaurant hashtag. Alongside little jars for donating change (which goes to charity) on the table are peanuts, the shells of which you can chuck on the floor. There's a few options for fried chicken—Nashville hot, southern fried and chicken fried, all of which feature juicy, sweet meat encased in a cracking, golden crust. There's also barbecue aplenty, with our favorite being the Burnt Ends dish, a smoked crown of brisket pieces sauteed with whiskey and brown sugar, then piled over hot-pepper cheese grits. Have mercy. *4663 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 423-7327, johnnyrebs.com.*

NOMAD ASIAN BISTRO

One of the few restaurants that can get away with not serving alcohol of any kind, Nomad Asian Bistro dishes out fresh, handmade Chinese cuisine. But it's two exceptional dishes in particular that landed them on this list: the Singapore noodles, thin and delicate strands spiced with curry, and the basil eggplant, bright purple chunks of the vegetable in a savory-sweet-sticky glaze. The Nomad short ribs are also pretty addictive, with delicate beef seasoned and tossed with scallions, peppers and roasted garlic. Each menu item is crafted with such balanced flavors you won't even miss the booze. *6563 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 430-6888, www.nomadasianbistro.com.*

SEABIRDS KITCHEN

Born as vegan-cuisine-on-wheels in 2010 during the food-truck boom, Seabirds Kitchen grew up to become the most legit vegan restaurant in Long Beach (its original Costa Mesa brick-and-mortar continues to boom as well). The chefs' artisan, from-scratch take on plant-based food packs the house daily. From a grilled cheese sandwich that tastes like honest-to-goodness silky American slices to seriously substantial tacos (some might argue the kimchi taco is the best, but we're team beer-battered avocado taco all the way) to the big-and-messy Beets Me Burger, Seabirds Kitchen can leave even any non-vegan satiated. *975 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 317-5545, www.seabirdskitchen.com.*

LOLA S MEXICAN CUISINE

For the past decade, Lola's Mexican Cuisine has been a staple on Retro Row. And since opening a second spot in Bixby Knolls, the artfully fusioned modern Mexican restaurant is taking over that neighborhood as well. Blame it on that green sauce. Served alongside complimentary chips and salsa, it's creamy and full of herbs and garlic—we refer to it as "crack sauce," and yes, it is available by the cup for takeout. *2030 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 343-5506, also at 4140 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, (562) 349-0100, www.lolasmexicancuisine.com.*

SAINT & SECOND

Since opening in 2015, Saint & Second remains one of the swankiest restaurants in the city. From the upstairs patio overlooking Second Street to the industrial-chic bar displaying hundreds of bottles of whisky to the ever-rotating list of over-the-top craft cocktails, this place puts serious effort into perfecting the fine-but-not-stuffy dining genre. *4828 E. Second St., Long Beach, (562) 433-4828, www.saintandsecond.com.*

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GREG NAGEL

Make Your Reservations Now

Counting down the top five restaurants of 2018

5. 18 FOLDS

I'm not sure which is more entertaining: Nibbling on chicken feet over a fresh local craft beer, or watching various giggling kids roll down the fake grass hills outside in the park? Dine inside, or ask for a picnic blanket to sit in the park and dine on meat-stuffed dumplings or, my favorite, the 18 Folds noodles with an ooey-gooey sous-vide egg on top. The beers are sourced within a 10-mile radius, so you know they're good. *430 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 386-5768, 18finc.com.*

4. HARLEY

Laguna Beach quickly became my favorite place to dine in 2018, with chef Greg Daniels planting his roots at Harley. The space is like a home away from home, complete with books on the shelf, a crackling-wood flame in the kitchen, and staff that is just as warm. Dining out can be a fun and adventurous experience, but at Harley, I feel as if I'm part of the journey. The obvious choice here is seafood, but I've never been disappointed with any of the chef's duck plates. *370 Glenneyre St., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-1530, www.harleylagunabeach.com.*

3. THE BLIND PIG

Rancho Santa Margarita doesn't have many destination restaurants, but an evening at the Blind Pig is totally worth a Lyft. Here, a totally insane Taco Tuesday and $8 tiki drinks can be found at the same time. Bartender Ryan Autry is one of the county's best, as he effortlessly plays his bar, his booze and his customers like a fiddle. I can't wait to visit the Blind Pig's new Yorba Linda location in 2019! *31431 Santa Margarita Pkwy., Rancho Santa Margarita, (949) 888-0072, www.theblindpigoc.com*

2. FARMHOUSE AT ROGER'S GARDENS

There aren't too many places that check all the boxes of what true California cuisine is all about. It's fun to see chef/owner Rich Mead get to play in a sandbox of the freshest local organic and biodynamic farm-raised food he can get his hands on. The team he assembled to back him up is just as passionate, knowledgeable and full of smiles as he is. It's no wonder a reservation is so difficult to land at the al fresco eatery. *2301 San Joaquin Hills Rd., Corona del Mar, (949) 640-1415, farmhouserg.com.*

1. EL MERCADO MODERN CUISINE

With so many places I consider second homes, it's tough to come up with a No. 1, but El Mercado is where I stumble to on my birthday, so that must make it a fave, right? I'm not sure if it's the constant flow of Mezcal sipped from thistle glasses, the gorgeously plated food, or whatever bartender Cesar Cerrudo is mumbling while shaking, stirring and lighting all the things on fire, but Mercado is my place of discovery, where despite all of my years on this planet, I can still explore something new. *301 N. Spurgeon St., Santa Ana, (714) 338-2446, www.mercadomodern.com.*

EatThisNow

» GREG NAGEL

From *Black Panther* to Black & White

Here's the best of what we saw in 2018

BY AIMEE MURILLO AND MATT COKER

MARVEL STUDIOS

Last year, when we revealed our five favorite films seen during 2017, we had no idea we were starting a year-ender tradition. And yet, here is our second-annual look back, with the same caveat that these are productions that were seen on any day and created during any year, so long as we saw them for the first time during 2018.

AIMEE'S PICKS

Penny Slinger: Out of the Shadows. Very rarely am I filled with a sense of awe when I watch a documentary, but learning about the artist Penny Slinger and her brand of fiery feminist artwork that explored themes such as BDSM, sexuality and the female body through a thick prism of surrealism made me not only a fan of the British-American artist, but also angry that I hadn't heard of her sooner. Richard Kovitch gives the still-living artist her due in a thoughtful, well-researched documentary that expertly analyzes her oeuvre of work, stretching from the late 1950s through today. It's a must for any fan of '60s art, as well as a testament to how many boundaries she's pushed just by being herself.

Eighth Grade. Bo Burnham's darling indie comedy will steal the hearts of whoever sees it, mainly for its teen heroine navigating early adolescence in the midst of a social media age. Kayla (Elsie Fisher) posts tutorials for other awkward preteens out there trying to figure out the ins and outs of socializing, but her videos are really diary entries of Kayla trying to fit in with the cool kids at her school. On the cusp of starting high school and leaving childhood behind, Kayla throws herself into new social situations, often with mixed, hilarious results.

Hereditary. Simply put, this film terrified me. Although Ari Aster's debut feature is mired in arthouse frills, there's nothing lackluster in the dark atmosphere he concocts. Toni Collette plays an artist whose mother recently passed away, with her death setting off a chain of events that lead to the realization of a deadly prophecy she hid for years. Don't watch this film in the dark.

Black Panther. All the praise (and potential Oscar buzz) for Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther* has been stacking up, and it's definitely one of the best superhero films I've encountered in a while. From the action to the mythical construction of Wakanda to the costumes to the cast and crew, everything was meticulously planned to make this a game-changing film, with a resonant moral to boot. Is anyone else anxiously awaiting a follow-up flick on the Dora Milaje?

Rope. I stumbled upon this 1948 Alfred Hitchcock film on the Boiler Room online streaming site 4.3. It's apparently one of Hitch's lesser-known, least-liked works, but its use of real-time scene acting draws out the suspense. In *Rope*, two academe scholars carry out a philosophical exercise of killing off a friend who, in their eyes, is an intellectually inferior person, then hold a dinner party right after to prove they can get away with the murder. I appreciated the one-shot camera illusion Hitchcock tried to pass off half a century before Alejandro Inarritu's *Birdman*. The gay subtext embedded throughout the film is a huge plus.

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COKER'S CHOICES

Black Panther. This tops my list for all the reasons stated above, plus this bonus. It is the only superhero movie I have seen in years that did not put me to sleep. Honestly, it's a real problem.

The Ballad of Buster Scruggs. I suspect this is another in a long string of movies by Joel and Ethan Coen in which some will dismiss it, a vocal minority will call it a masterpiece, and years from now, the early dismissers will rethink their original positions. (See: *Barton Fink*, *The Big Lebowski*, *A Serious Man*, etc.) *Scruggs* is a collection of six morality plays set in the 19th-century post-Civil War era, and my favorite is about a grizzled old gold panner played by Tom Waits, whom I swore was Nick Nolte.

Roma. The first Hispanic and Mexican to win the Best Director Oscar (for *Gravity* in 2014), Alfonso Cuarón wrote, directed, shot, co-edited and co-produced this passion project based on his growing up in Mexico City in the 1970s, presenting it in glorious black-and-white. But the warts-and-all story is not told through the eyes of a young boy, his siblings or his upper-middle-class parents, but rather their housekeeper (Yalitza Aparicio, who amazes in her first film role).

1945. This Hungarian film, which was directed by Ferenc Török and also shot in glorious black-and-white, is a horror masterpiece without actual monsters. Three months after World War II ends, an older man (the late Iván Angelusz, who is also the producer) and his son (Marcell Nagy) step off a train outside a remote Hungarian village. The closer they get to their destination, the more the villagers freak out—to humorous, heartbreaking and tragic ends.

Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami. The at times sad, at times invigorating, at all times splendid documentary from Sophie Fiennes (the sister of actors Ralph and Joseph) gives a revealing, nonlinear look at the music/fashion/gender-blender icon. Taking five years to make, as well as plane trips all over the world, the film reassures that Grace Jones is still out there, fighting the good fight in headdresses that cover her eyes.

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Culture Clash, Continued

Angrier than ever, a veteran SoCal comedy act comes to South Coast Rep

BY JOEL BEERS

As part of the sociopolitical-infused comedy trio Culture Clash, Richard Montoya has spent much of the past 35 years traveling, performing, interviewing, and hearing and writing stories about what it means to be an American, as well as what America itself means. But though he, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza have created site-specific shows from San Diego to Miami and have performed various compilations of those shows many places in between, he says nowhere is as fascinating as where they're back for the fourth time: Orange County.

"If I want to see hipsters, I go to Silver Lake; if I want to see the world, I come to Orange County," Montoya says.

On the surface, OC seems less than welcoming for three lefty, Chicano, cage-rattling satirists. As former *OC Weekly* editor Gustavo Arellano wrote in a 2006 opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times*, the county has a "bizarre history of hating the Mexican ... [where] racist sneezes become national hurricanes."

From the creation of the border-vigilante Minuteman Project and helping to bankroll 1994's Proposition 187 to a litany of discriminatory housing and education policies, a county that has relied so much on Mexican labor, tax dollars and wonderful *taquerias* has long nurtured an antipathy, if not outright hostility, toward our largest group of non-Anglo residents.

But instead of avoiding it, Montoya and comrades see the county as neither an exception to an ethnically diversifying America nor an oasis of white privilege detached from the currents of change and conflict roiling the rest of the country. Instead, they view it as ground zero for that change and conflict, from the blue wave reflected in the midterm elections to its white-supremacist idiots.

The trio's newest show, *Culture Clash (Still) In America*, reflects that. Directed by Lisa Peterson and augmented by designers who have created the most technologically savvy and slickly produced Culture Clash show to date, Montoya says, it's a combination of older material that remains eerily relevant and new material, most of which references OC. It explores stories such as the homeless encampments along the Santa Ana River and the Orange County jailhouse-snitch scandal. But, indirectly, the newer and older material about detention centers and a changing country also applies. Because, Montoya says, OC is America.

"We're rehearsing our show [at South Coast Repertory, where it last appeared in 2008], where they're doing *A Christmas Carol*, and the audiences look like *Brady Bunch* families, with a sprinkling of African-American and Latino families," he says. "And then I'll catch a post-rehearsal drink at Vaca [restaurant], and it's completely integrated, and then I walk around South Coast Plaza, and it's completely crazy, rich Asians, and I go into the theaters there, which is all I can afford, and they're all Latinos. Laguna Beach is completely LGBTQ+; Fashion Island is an Arabic-Persian Fantasy Island. And I realize, 'Holy shit, the world is in Orange County.' It's this fascinating petri dish, and I'm blown away by that."

Culture Clash evolved from a trio of smart, snarky, sketch-comedy writers and performers with a political bent. Either as a unit or individually, the members have developed full-length plays ranging from a trilogy about Los Angeles history to a one-man show about Pablo Picasso. But Montoya realized something a couple of years ago while working on a project with a San Francisco troupe that led him to interviewing former Maricopa County sheriff Joe Arpaio: that through the years, Culture Clash has also evolved from performers working in the tradition of the grassroots, mobilizing narrative style championed by Luis Valdez's El Teatro Campesino in the 1960s into something that is as much journalism as it is theater.

"We've finally figured out that we're not just actors doing roles. We have become chroniclers, storytellers, ethnographic journalists of the theater," Montoya says. "That's why we love talking to [local journalist] beat writers everywhere we work. [It's] the same way we're in love with Sam Shepard, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen—these American chroniclers, people who tell stories of American lives, of new Americans, those in the margins, those literally dying to become Americans."

And even if Culture Clash has matured in its commitment to chronicling the American experience, it's still determined to raise hell whenever it can.

While he can't speak for his compatriots, Montoya says, "I'm getting meaner, grumpier and more pissed-off and going down that dark path lighted by the tiki torches of Charlottesville. I'm haunted by that shit, and I don't want America to forget that it should be haunted by that. So, when we're talking about [homelessness] at the Santa Ana River or the OC Sheriff's Department [and immigration], we're talking about colonial memory, a colonial imprint, and we've got to shake up those ghosts, and we need to speak truth to power."

And in a county that is tilting toward the blue, but which is still, let's face it, Orange County, there's no more challenging—and enjoyable—place to do that.

"In other parts of the country, a lot of times, audiences are silent, or indifferent or didn't know whether they should be laughing," Montoya says. "But in Orange County, it's always a boisterous crowd, like a boxing match. And afterward, there'd be this 6-foot-4-inch white guy waiting for you at the bar, and you'd think, 'Oh, shit,' but he would say, 'I didn't agree with everything you said, but I laughed my ass off, and I'm going to buy you a drink.'

"So, this is kind of like taking the town-hall thing back," he continues. "We're going to discuss a lot of tough issues, and there's going to be a lot of laughter and maybe some tears, but we've grown up, and Orange County has grown up, and I think we're [both] capable of having this conversation."

FRIDCIA ENDELMAN

CULTURE CLASH (STILL) IN AMERICA **at South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555, www.scr.org. Previews begin Sun.-Tues.-Fri., 7:45 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 2 & 7:45 p.m. Through Jan. 20, 2019. $20-$86**

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

Dec. 28-Jan. 3

***LOTERÍA!* ORIGINS AND PRACTICES OF MEXICAN BINGO.** Dr. Glona Arjona lectures about the popular game, followed by an opportunity for the audience to play it. Sat., 1:30 p.m. $8-$12. Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana. (714) 567-3600. www.bowers.org.

"DRONE". Kehe Fox and Stephen Andersen separately provide multimedia and collage works that explore the various meanings of the word. Opening reception, Sat., 6 p.m. Open Thurs.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Through Jan. 26, 2019. Free. Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, 117 Sycamore St., Santa Ana. (714) 667-1517. www.occca.org.

GENTLE, RESTORATIVE YOGA (WITH CATS). Gentle, slow-paced class intended for those with mobility issues and who need extra care with alignment and breath work. Plus, there are cats! Sun., 10:30 a.m. $12-$15. ZenCat Lounge, 1211 W. Central, Brea. (562) 451-3934. zencatlounge.com.

AFRIKAN CULTURAL CENTER LONG BEACH KWANZAA CELEBRATION. The Dembrebrah West African Drum and Dance Ensemble offers traditional West African performances. Sun., 2 p.m. Free. Expo Arts Center, 4321 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach. dembrebrah.org.

HAVANA'S BARRIO CHINO NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION. The *Havana Nights*-themed evening features a special Cuban-cuisine and cocktail menu, theatrical and musical performances, cigar rolling, and other festivities. Mon., 5 p.m. $180-$250. Andy House of Art, 3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa. (714) 557-5679. houseofart.com.

NEW YEAR'S SPECTACULAR. Teatro Martini rings in 2019 with a lavish dinner, magic, comedy and other performances right up until the midnight countdown. Mon., 10:30 p.m. $44. Teatro Martini, 7600 Beach Blvd., Buena Park. (844) 248-7865. teatromartini.com.

NYE 2019 - FUNKY TOWN DISCO PARTY. The '70s-set shindig includes a champagne toast, small bites, a rainbow-balloon drop and live music. Mon., 11 p.m. $50. Angelina's Pizzeria Napoletana at Los Olives Marketplace, 8573 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine. (949) 536-5200; www.eventbrite.com.

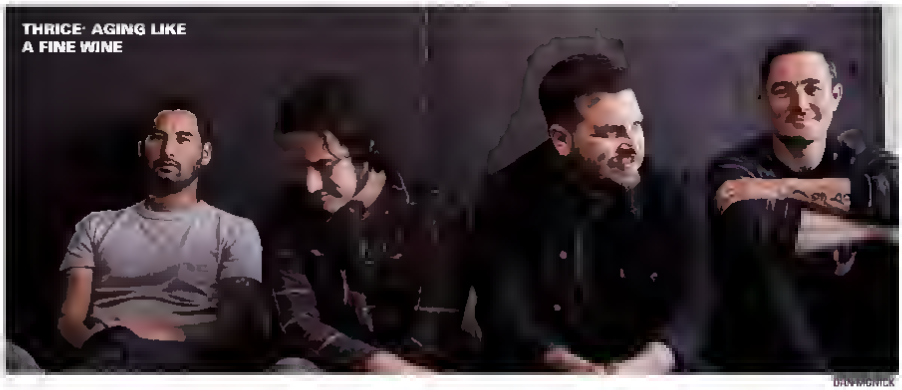
COMMITMENT DAY 5K. Life Time Athletic Laguna Niguel hosts this race in hopes of participants keeping up with their fitness goals for the new year a brunch social follows. Tues., 8 a.m. Registration, $25-$40; children younger than 12, free. Laguna Niguel Regional Park, 26241 La Paz, Laguna Niguel; www.rsceventy.com.

QUEER YOUTH VOICES WORKSHOP. LGBTQIA writer and UC Riverside MFA candidate Rachel Wiley aids young writers in exploring queer narrative prompts. Thurs., Jan. 3, 2 p.m. Free; RSVP required. Grand Central Art Center, 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. (714) 567-7233; www.facebook.com/LibreMobile.

Voluminous Praise

Our scribes pick their favorite albums of 2018

BY LILLEDESHAN BOSE, JUAN GUTIERREZ, WYOMING REYNOLDS AND BRITTANY WOOLSEY


THRICE: AGING LIKE A FINE WINE

DAN MCNICK

The spectrum of sound generated by today's SoCal artists in 2018 would be enough to fill a book, let alone a list. From the brash and adventurous to the meek and minimal, the artists both in and of Orange County and surrounding areas definitely hit us with some heat in these turbulent times, helping us forget the world outside when we tuned in to listen. Throughout the year, there were a handful of artists from our corner of the world that took the lost art of the album to new heights and continue to leave our ears ringing. Here are just a few of the albums the *Weekly*'s music writers picked as the year's best.

THRICE, *PALMS*

It's not nostalgia that led us to put Thrice on this best of 2018 list. On *Palms*, their second album since returning from hiatus in 2015, the foursome churned out songs that are classic Thrice, with the heavy riffs, introspective lyrics and post-emo ballads that shaped many a millennial adolescence in Orange County and beyond.

There's still experimentation with synths ("Only Us"), samples ("Blood On Blood") and ballads ("Everything Belongs"), plus some cool Easter eggs: Emma Ruth Rundle sings on one song, and another features more than 1,000 backing vocalists. But the core of what makes Thrice Thrice—heavy, bluesy songs, solid guitar riffs, lyrics seeking spirituality—is at the heart of *Palms*. "The Grey" carries the album, and as one of Thrice's heaviest releases, it sounds as if it could have been on *The Artist In the Ambulance* or *The Illusion of Safety*. Likewise, "My Soul" wouldn't have been out of place on *Beggars*.

Thrice have come a really long way from their emo roots, and it's easy to say they've gone full-on dad rock here. It's not everyone's favorite or most groundbreaking album for possibly that reason, the ballads, such as "Everything Belongs," are some of their most memorable and likable songs. Maybe it's because Thrice's fans have matured alongside the band, and for fans who've grown up with Thrice, that reflection of growth and experience is much appreciated. *(Lilledeshan Bose)*

PACIFIC DUB, *GUIDE YOU HOME*

We're big fans of Pacific Dub, even though their album *Guide You Home*, released in May 2018, pays tribute to pretty much every one of their stoner-beach-rock antecedents: Sublime, Slightly Stoopid, Dirty Heads, Rebelution. From lead singer Colton Place's white-boy-whine to the references to breezy Cali surf vibes in their hip-hop/reggae/punk songs, Pacific Dub misses not one beat on this 11-song offering. Oddly enough, the fact that they're so loyal to their influences doesn't make the set terrible; in fact, it's even better for it. The songs on *Guide You Home* suck you into a feeling of *jamais vu*—which translates to "never seen," that feeling when something happens that seems as though it should be familiar but isn't (or the opposite of déjà vu).

Guide You Home is a natural extension of the Sublime, Dirty Heads or Slightly Stoopid album that you always wanted but can't possibly have; not one track would be out of place beside a Bradley Nowell song. And, in true millennial fashion, the songs are also slicker and sweeter than ones from other bands in the genre, the prime examples being "Reaching," "Same Old Story" and "Don't Tell Me." It's hard to believe the songs were mixed and mastered in bassist Nathan Ueda's home studio, given the polish on each track. This is definitely an album for the road trip down PCH. *(LB)*

VINCE STAPLES, *FM!*

If you've ever turned up at a backyard party where there's a dusty-ass NOS tank and the party gets rolled by the police when either punches get thrown, there's a stabbing or a gun gets pulled, then this album is for you. *FM!* is a phantasmagoria of vignettes about gang life, summertime in LBC and dark humor, all packed into a pure mellifluous flow and told through the narrative structure of the radio show *Big Boy's Neighborhood*.

Standout tracks are rampant on Staples' short and hard third album. On "Outside," the rapper reps so much gun knowledge over a hardened *Nyan Cat* theme sample the NRA would blush; "Summertime" is a perfect party banger, even if you're not about that gang life; and his wordplay atop a fire beat—reminiscent of Ludacris' "The Potion"—on "FUN!" is the epitome of rap finesse. *FM!* is one part concept album, one part bangers 'R' us—the quintessential album for all the non-gentrified areas in SoCal. *(Juan Gutierrez)*

SONODA, *KARAOKE LIFE*

Lisa Sonoda started releasing music on Bandcamp as a solo artist while at UC Irvine. She built soundscapes and loops influenced by Beach House, Angel Olsen and Broadcast. Now based in LA, Sonoda's new music shows how far she has progressed from diary-like self-releases. Her recent release through Never Content, *Karaoke Life* is sewn together by her lyrical minimalism, Tibetan singing bowls and a six-piece backing band—made up of the Young Lovers. Sonoda takes listeners on a beautifully produced sonic journey that shows us that the DIY scene isn't just surf rock, Pabst Blue Ribbon and mosh pits, but also lush tapestries of sounds you can chill out to. *(JG)*

YOUNG THE GIANT, *MIRROR MASTER*

At this point in their career, Young the Giant have ceased creating the same boisterous indie alt-pop that encapsulated their early years, songs such as "My Body" and "Cough Syrup." As evidenced on their fourth album, the quintet have evolved. Focusing on themes that tackle technological reliance and social media, and with a sound that fuses elements of prog-rock, soft rock, new wave and dance rock, *Mirror Master* is unlike anything the band have released before. As a focused, mature Young the Giant dazzled crowds at September's Ohana Fest in Dana Point with songs from the new album, which was released a month later, they proved not only that they're not going away any time soon, but also that they are one of OC's longest-lasting bands of the past decade or so. *(Wyoming Reynolds)*

ANDREW MCMAHON IN THE WILDERNESS, *UPSIDE DOWN FLOWERS*

The driving force behind the pop-punk outfits Something Corporate and Jack's Mannequin returned this year with his third effort for his Andrew McMahon In the Wilderness project. Released via Fantasy Records, *Upside Down Flowers* offers 11 tracks with a piano-driven, synth-pop sound and vivid lyrics, some based off true stories while others are fiction from the Dana Point native's imagination. It presents a more mature McMahon than the teen who once sang songs that told off a high-school bully and asked a girl to be his "Punk Rock Princess."

The album's first single, "Ohio," expresses a longing to return to the West Coast, while "Teenage Rockstars" recounts McMahon's journey to stardom, starting when he attended Dana Hills High School. Other notable tracks include "Monday Flowers," a woeful tale of love gone wrong, and "House In the Trees," in which McMahon recounts friendships and stories of travel. McMahon's daughter—the namesake of the singer/songwriter's hit song "Cecilia and the Satellite"—is the loving subject of the lullaby-like tune "This Wild Ride." Some songs hint at influences from fellow piano rockers Billy Joel and Elton John, while others, such as "Goodnight Rock and Roll," are reminiscent of McMahon's pop-punk roots.

Produced by alt-rock musician Butch Walker, *Upside Down Flowers* a noteworthy follow-up to last year's *Zombies on Broadway* and 2014's self-titled release. *(Brittany Woolsey)*

CORRIEL PHOTO

Love Is What They Got

Bradley's House saves lives through music and recovery

BY LIAM BLUME

It's Nov 24, 2018. Kelhe Nowell, sister of former Sublime front man Bradley Nowell and executive director of the Nowell Family Foundation, runs frantically through the flannel-and-T-shirt-wearing sold-out crowd at Long Beach's Gaslamp Music + Bar + Kitchen. As the ringleader of the night's benefit concert, she's anxiously confirming that every band on the set list is present. local legends Long Beach Dub Allstars, her nephew's LAW, and famed Sublime cover band Burritos.

Normally, you'd expect the crowd to be drunk, tattoo-covered and restless, but everyone's calm. This is akin to therapy for them. The locals are here not only in remembrance of their fallen hometown hero, but also in support of the Nowell Foundation's hopes to open Bradley's House, a six-bed treatment facility for opiate-addicted musicians, regardless of their finances.

The Nowell family bounced around the idea of opening a treatment facility after Bradley's overdose death in 1996, Kelhe says. However, nothing happened until a 2017 conversation with family friend Todd Zalkins, who was then working on a documentary chronicling his spiral into addiction and eventual recovery. The idea for Bradley's House hit Zalkins while he was surfing. He then called Bradley's father, Jim, and Kelhe.

"The idea evolved from spending a great deal of time with Poppa Nowell," Zalkins says. "For me, the film was a stepping stone to see what else we could do."

The plan is to provide free detox, 30-day treatment and 30-day sponsorship in a sober-living home. Helping people grappling with the substance that claimed Bradley's life is of paramount importance, but the facility may eventually broaden its scope to treat other addictions. The shared bond of music will hopefully increase patients' chances of recovery. At maximum capacity, Kelhe says, the six-bed model can help 72 people annually. But treatment is expensive. As of now, the Nowell Family Foundation estimates it will cost $500,000 to open the house.

Casey Sullivan, Kelhe's friend and front man of Burritos, was the first to think of raising the necessary funds through benefit shows such as the one at the Gaslamp. Bands and fans alike rallied around the cause, celebrating Bradley's life and reggae/punk music. "The support has been overwhelming," Kelhe says. "Fans have reached out to tell me how Sublime's music affected them. People I've never met call me 'sis' because they connect with Brad's music."

"We're starting to build momentum with musicians dedicated to help," Zalkins adds.

Kelhe hopes the shows will attract larger artists with hearts for struggling addicts. Katie, Kelhe's stepsister, is even planning an annual benefit festival.

"My dream is for Gwen Stefani to perform 'Saw Red' with Jakob, Bradley's son," Zalkins says. Bradley and Stefani's duet "Saw Red" helped catapult Sublime and No Doubt's fame decades ago, and now, he hopes, it will further their friend's legacy by drawing attention to the lifesaving work that can be done at Bradley's House.

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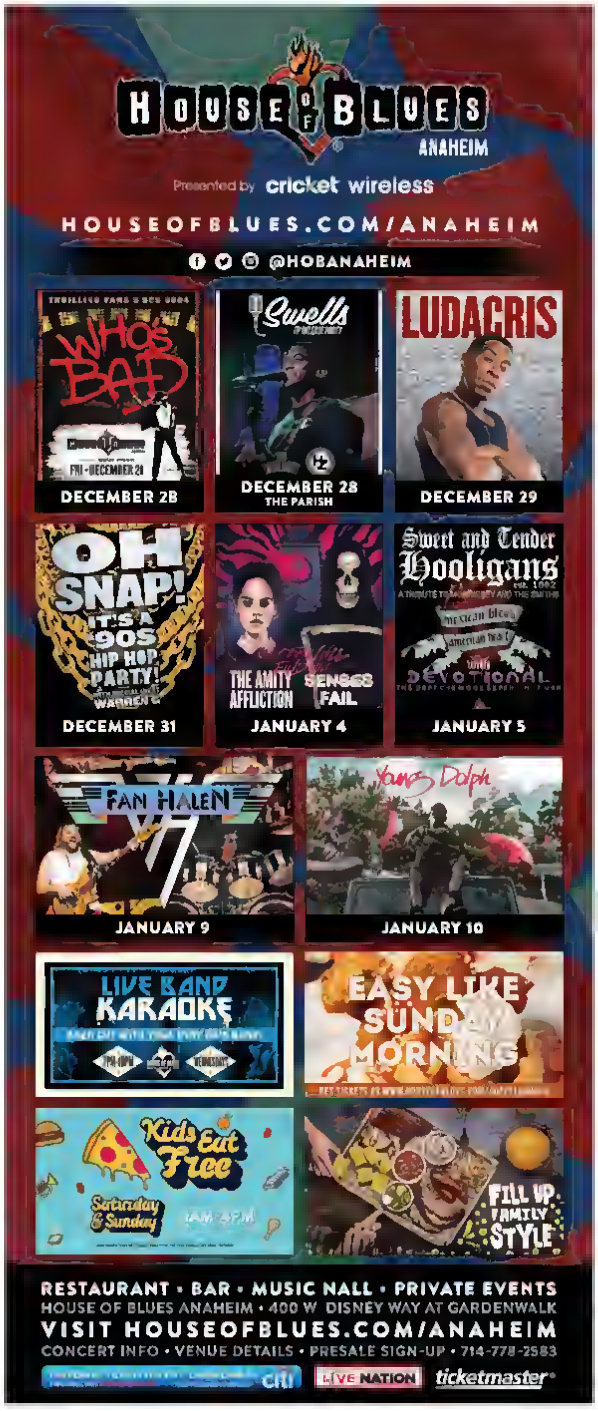
For more info on Bradley's House, visit the nowellfamilyfoundation.org



COURTESY OF DJ POLYESTER

Friday

FACE TO FACE 8 p.m., $30, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

THE SLOP STOMP/THIRD ANNIVERSARY 8 p.m., free, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2313 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com

WHO'S RAQ: THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE 7 p.m., $20, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

X, LOS LOBOS, THE BLASTERS 8 p.m., $35, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com.

Saturday

THE CLAYPOOL LENNON DELIRIUM, L.A WITCH 8 p.m., $35, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com

DRIP FEST, WITH KAZO, ROICIRE, DRIPSET, LIL RAMEN 5 p.m., $10, all ages. Garden Amps, The Locker Room, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-8544, gardenamp.com.

FARTBARF, MIKE WATT & THE SECONOMEN, AUDACITY, VERY CRUSH 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2313 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

HOT SNAKES 8 p.m., $26, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

LUDACRIS 8 p.m., $50, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

TUNNELS, REVLAR, THESE PILGRIMS, LANITARIANS 8 p.m., $7, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com

Sunday

ETHAN HULSE & LOWLY SPECTS, BRENNAN SMILEY 8 p.m., $8, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com

LONG BEACH RECORD SWAP 1 p.m., free, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2313 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

YASIIN BEY 8 p.m., $25, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com

Monday

THE ROMBORAS, THROW RAG 8 p.m., $25, $30, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2313 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

IRATION, PACIFIC DUB, TYRONE'S JACKET, AMPLIVE 6 p.m., $50, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com

OH SNAP! IT'S A '90S HIP-HOP PARTY, WITH SPECIAL GUEST WARREN G 8 p.m., $20, 18+. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

OZOMATLI 9 p.m., $40 ($50), 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

SEGA GENECIDE 8 p.m., $15-$20, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com

TIKIYAKI ORCHESTRA JUNGLE JETSETTER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE ADVENTURE 7:45 p.m., $65-$500, 21+. Campus JAX, 3950 Campus Dr., Newport Beach. (949) 261-6270, stellarshows.net.

Wednesday

BLIVET, ADULT BEVERAGE, NOQV, THIS UNI 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com

THE GROUCH & ELIGH 8 p.m., $20, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

Thursday, Jan. 3

BLUEFACE 8 p.m., $15-$20, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com

GASOLINA 9 p.m., $15, 18+. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

RIVER RATTS 8 p.m., free, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

TWIN SEAS, CHOLA ORANGE, THE KID CHOCOLATE BAND, THE CHARITIES 8 p.m., $5, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2313 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

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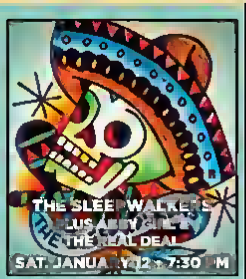

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Two Breakups, One Brake On

I'm a thirtysomething straight woman married for 16 years. Eighteen months ago, I met a man, and there was an immediate attraction. For the first 15 months of our relationship, I was his primary sexual and intimate partner, as both sex and intimacy were lacking in his marriage. (My husband knew of the relationship from the start and is accepting, for the most part.) After my lover's wife found out about me, she suddenly became very responsive to my lover's sexual and emotional needs. My lover has told his wife that he will not let me go. He has also told me that he is not willing to let his wife go. She isn't happy about being in a triad relationship, but she allows him to continue seeing me with limitations. I me as longer his primary sex partner, and I have been relegated to the back seat. He claims to love us both, yet his wife and I both struggle knowing the other exists. Recently, while out shopping, my lover asked me to help him pick out a Christmas gift for his wife. I got upset because I am in love with him, and I have made him my priority (over my husband), but I'm not [a] priority. I love this man, and we feel we're soul mates. My lover has said that if we fall apart, he will have to find a new secondary partner because his wife can never give him the soulful fulfillment he needs. Should I continue in this relationship?

Soul Mate Avoids Choice Knowingly

You complain about being relegated to the back seat, SMACK, but it's your husband whose existence only comes up in parenthetical asides. You also describe this relationship as a triad when there are four people involved (you, your lover, your lover's wife *and your husband*), which technically makes this a quad. And from the sound of things, only one member of the messy quad seems happy—your lover, the guy who refuses to make you a "priority" over his wife.

And while you've convinced yourself that your lover feels as strongly for you as you do for him—"we feel we are soul mates"—it *kindasorta* sounds to me like you may be projecting, SMACK. Because in addition to asking you to pick out Christmas gifts for his wife, your lover and alleged soul mate regards you as expendable and replaceable. And he's told you as much: He intends to "find a new secondary partner" if you two part because his wife doesn't "give him the soulful fulfillment he needs." That's not how people talk about their soul mates...and it's certainly not something a guy says to someone he regards as his soul mate. Soul mates are typically told they're special and irreplaceable, but your guy sees you as one of many potential seconds out there, and therefore utterly replaceable.

Here's what you ought to do. You aren't interested in being your lover's secondary partner (nor are you much interested in being your husband's wife), so you'll have to call your lover's bluff. And the only card you have to play—and it's a weak hand (as all hands with just one card are)—is to dump your lover unless he leaves his wife for you. Success rests on the outside chance your lover mes bluffing when he said he'd replace you, but I suppose it's possible he regards you as the irreplaceable one and only said those hurtful things to make you think he wouldn't choose you when you are the one he would've chosen all along. If it turns out that this was the case, SMACK, you'll wind up with your soul mate—who happens to be *kindasorta* cruel and manipulative.

Calling your lover's bluff—ending a relationship that, in its current form, brings you no joy—is your only hope of having this guy to yourself. But the likelier outcome is that you'll be left alone (with, um, your husband).

My boyfriend and I met at a bondage party a year ago. He's out into bondage (he tagged along with a kinky friend). We hit it off in the chill-out room and started seeing each other. He told me it was okay for me to keep going to bondage parties and seeing some guys I play with one-on-one. Then right after me moved in together, he said he doesn't me[e]t me playing with anyone else because we are in love. Which means I can't get tied up at all anymore because he has zero interest in bondage. He can't see why I'm upset, and I'm not sure what to do.

Boy In New Drama

So now that you're in love, and now that you've signed a lease, and now that you're trapped...BIND=now—NOW—your vanilla boyfriend yanks back the accommodation that convinced you to date him in the first place? There's only one thing you can do: DTMFA.

I me 30 and mala, and I have been with my girlfriend for five years. For a slew of reasons (we have almost no interests/hobbies in common, our personalities are completely different, me ane't sexually compatible) I have decided to end it. She's a good, smart, well-educated person for whom I wish only the best. I'm thinking of breaking up with her sometime this week or halfway through next year. I know you believe someone should tell a partner about these sorts of feelings ASAP to avoid robbing them of time they could have spent fixing the situation or moving on. Something inside me tells me that my case is different. My girlfriend is a graduate student in a non-tech/STEM field (read: hard to find jobs) and has a decent amount of school debt. We also have a dog. We live in a city where the rents me high, and it's harder to find a place that will allow dogs. (She will definitely be taking the dog.) The thing is, she would almost certainly want to move out immediately if me broke up. I'm worried that if she tried to absorb the financial hit of a breakup, it might torpedo her education and life plans. I me at a loss for what to do. She's leaving on a week to visit her family for a month—should I dump her before then so she can lean on them? Should I me[e]t until she graduates, but dodge questions about where I'm willing to move if she gets a job offer somewhere else?

Deciding Ultimately Means Pine

As a general rule, one should never drag out an inevitable breakup. We should break up with people promptly to spare our exes the humiliation of thinking back over the last few months or (God forbid!) the last few years and recalling every painfully ambiguous or deceitfully upbeat conversation about Our Shared Future. Another good reason to break up with someone promptly: A person (not the person) your ex could spend the rest of their life with might cross their path two months from now—and if they're still with you then or still reeling from a very recent breakup, they won't say yes (old-fashioned) or swipe right (newfangled).

But there are exceptions to nearly rule. DUMP and I think your case qualifies. And as with many exceptions to many rules, your exception honors the spirit of the rule itself. Both reasons I cite for breaking up with someone promptly—to spare your soon-to-be ex's feelings, to get out of the way of your soon-to-be ex's future—are about being considerate of your soon-to-be ex. And that's just what you're doing. You want to end this relationship now, but you're going to meet six months because you don't want to derail your soon-to-be-ex girlfriend's education or career prospects. So out of consideration for her, DUMP you should coast for a bit longer.

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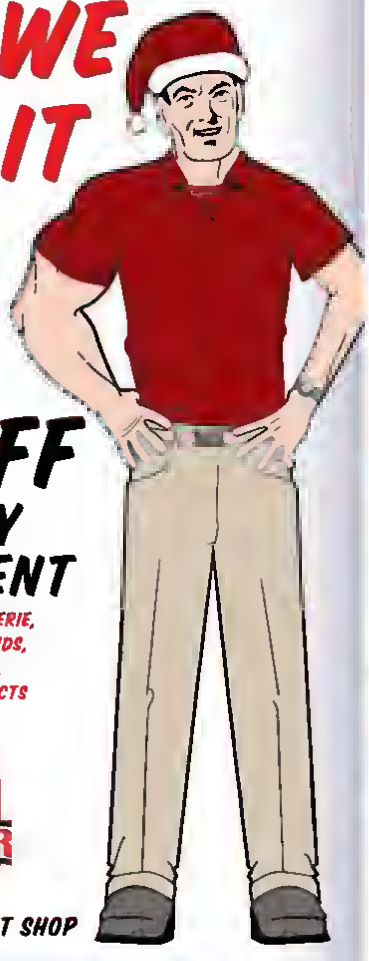

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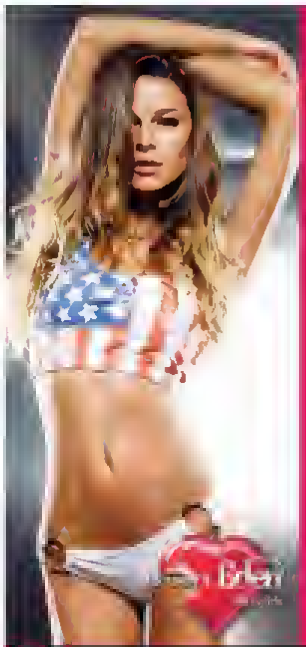

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Earth, Wind, Fire and Water

How the elements play out in the Women's Marches

BY LISA BLACK

New Year's Eve no longer divides one year from another for Paint It Black. Since the 2016 election, the Women's March on Washington and its worldwide sister marches signal another trip around the sun. I've got my Resisting Bitch Face on, and I'm ready to look back (and forward) from march to march.

On an elemental level, that first massive protest denotes fire. As I stood on a grassy knoll rising above jam-packed Calle Cuarto in Santa Ana the day after 45's inauguration, I had hoped the hand-lettered sign I photographed would become a prophesy: "The plan is to fan this spark into a FLAME."

Beneath the horrors that rolled out relentlessly over the next year, resistance burned. Organizers set to work. Many of the millions of women and men who'd marched that day committed to run for office. I still wonder if the veterinarian who told *me* over a high-ABV ale at Recess afterward that she was considering a bid followed through with her plan.

The second Santa Ana march early this year was bigger and better. That night, while looking at slideshows from protests around the world, I saw a sign in South Asia that read, "Resistance is Fertile." I swiped the slogan for the *Weekly*'s coverage headline. And if you want something to grow, you better water it, right? Water, I declare, is 2018's element.

If magenta yarn sold out across the land leading up to the first march, then it was blue tempera paint for the second. The signage went from black-and-red marker on rectangles to an explosion of color and shapes beyond the confines of poster board. Not only were cresting tidal waves depicted, but other savage signage was legion in the form of turds and (in) peaches, as well. Protesters' fiery fears had been cooled, joy and humor burst out as people admired the riot of creativity and snark.

The OC coalition of 25 organizations did a spectacular job preparing, from the practical to the aspirational. The rallies before and after exemplified inclusivity, particularly powerful for me was the onstage presence of Native American speakers, women from Black Lives Matter Long Beach, and girls from several local high schools.

Each speech and every step along the route had a subtext: "Grab 'em by the midterms."

Ten months later, 35 newly elected women will be sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives. Come Jan. 3, 2019, the total number of women in that legislative body will reach nearly 20 percent. Wow, we are getting so close to matching the actual female population of 51 percent!

But among those 35 women are many firsts: the first Muslim American, first Native Americans, first African American from New England—and the first time all seven OC districts are blue. Okay, that last one has men, too, many of whom also marched.

So I'm declaring the midterms neither a blue wave nor a women's wave, but rather a short ride toward equal representation.

Before projecting which of the two remaining elements will characterize the upcoming Women's March (note there's no trademark attached to the term), let me say that waves and water flowed through many of the South County cultural happenings that appeared in Paint It Black this year.

Elizabeth Turk's *Shoreline Project* brought a thousand volunteers to animate curated umbrellas that glowed in the dusk on Laguna's Main Beach. It was a massive community celebration with an underlying message to slow down the disappearing shores. Filmmaker Elizabeth Pepin Silva's *La Maestra*, about the first local woman to surf the remote Baja break near her village, screened outdoors at the San Onofre Parks Foundation, along with a talk by professor Krista Comer on her book *Surfer Girls In the New World Order*.

Casa Romantica exhibited three extraordinary Baja artists whose seascapes, magical-realism rain and bronze vessels floated down imaginary waterways. Surfing Heritage and Culture Center added to the full story of surfing by featuring four women in its summer exhibit, plus honoring them at its annual gala.

And while it had nothing to do with liquid, Casa Romantica's international exhibition of Rwandan artist Emmanuel Nkuranga was an object lesson in resilience. The co-founder of Inema Cultural Center in Kigali brought a spectacular optimism to his energetic, vivid, paint-carved works. That such a dynamo could thrive barely two decades after his country was severed by civil war and a staggering genocide models a turnaround that imbues hope we'll recover from our own blatant nationalism.

LISA BLACK

Speaking of the windbag blowing from Washington, D.C., the element that best fits the third women's march is, in all subjectivity, air—as in airing the swamp-dirty laundry from collusion to corruption in the campaign, the transition, the inauguration and the administration. But mostly it's for the breath of fresh air, elected mostly PAC-fund-free, that takes over the House. Those men and women will, as they've done throughout their orientation, give the human rights we've been demonstrating about a voice in the government.

But there has been some ill wind surrounding the Women's March itself.

Recently, Orange County Women's March organizers released a statement on social media declaring financial, leadership and decision-making independence from the founders' Women's March Inc. My first reaction was panic and the now-ubiquitous fear of troll farms. There goes the unity! The mass participation!

I reached out and learned the OC march has been independent all along. "We spent a lot of time discussing the issues that have come up within the national [Women's March Inc.] and agreed it was important this year to make a statement about our independence. It was not an easy decision."

The now-30-member coalition's declaration reads, in part: "The Orange County Women's March stands against hate in all forms. We denounce any statements against the Jewish and LGBTQIA+ communities and will continue to take action to promote intersectionality and equity as we work toward our vision of restoring dignity, sharing humanity, and promoting inclusivity and justice for all."

As I learned from Comer's *Surfer Girls*, that which is local is also global. The way we protect, sustain and interact at our local break (or march) is not only unique, but also shares a structural commonality with surf spots (marches) everywhere in the world.

So we'll organize locally but march in Santa Ana and LA and the world over for women's/human rights on Jan. 19, 2019.

Then I guess we'll truly start saving the Earth in 2020.

LBLACK@OCWEEKLY.COM

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